

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 31, 2007, the Examiner noted that claims 1-23 were pending, objected to claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 12, 13, 15-17, and 20-23 and rejected claims 2, 5, 9, 11, 14, and 18. Claims 2, 3, 11-13, 19, 20, 22 and 23 have been amended, claims 1, 10 and 21 have been canceled, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 2-9, 11-20, 22 and 23 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections and objections are traversed below.

On page 2 of the Action claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 20-23 stand rejected and obvious. On page 7 of the Action claims 8 and 17 stand rejected and obvious. On page 8 of the Action claim 19 stands rejected and obvious.

On page 9 claims 2, 5, 9, 11, 14 and 18 have been objected to and indicated as allowable if rewritten into independent form.

Claims 2 and 11 have been rewritten into independent form.

Claims 22 and 23 have been rewritten to include the features of allowable claim 2.

Claims 3-9 and 12-20 depend directly or indirectly on claims 2 or 11.

It is submitted that claims 2, 5, 9, 11, 14 and 18 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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